UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P000399117
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

26 FEB 1986

IN REPLY T-4-1
REFER TO: San Gabriel

Mr. Richard S. Chamberlain
Vice President Production
Transit Mixed Concrete Company
P.O. Box 575
Azusa, CA 91702

Dear Mr. Chamberlain:

As acknowledged by your letter of April 16, 1985, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) contractor, CH_2M Hill, obtained water samples from your well number 2 on April 16, 1985. As requested in your letter, I am providing you with the results of the laboratory analyses. I apologize for the delay in providing the lab results to you, however, EPA conducts a rigorous quality assurance review of all laboratory data prior to release outside of the agency. The laboratory results provided to you at this time have undergone such a review.

The enclosed charts summarize the results of the analyses of the water samples that were taken from your well. You will find the results organized as follows. The "Analyses Performed" chart identifies the chemicals for which the water samples were analyzed. Volatiles and semivolatiles are not individual chemicals; they are different groups of chemicals that are commonly tested for by the same analytical procedure. A listing of the chemicals in these groups is also enclosed.

The "Analytical Results" sheet summarizes the results of the water analyses. Specific contaminants that were detected are listed along with the concentration [in micrograms/liter (ug/l) or parts per billion (ppb)] of the contaminant found in the samples. I have also enclosed, for your information, a table which lists California State Department of Health Services' (DOHS) action levels and EPA's proposed maximum contaminant levels (drinking water quality standards) for several contaminants that have been frequently detected in ground water in the San Gabriel Valley. This table provides information as to what concentration levels of contaminants regulatory agencies consider acceptable for water that is to be used for drinking purposes. [Note: If you have any questions concerning DOHS action levels, please contact the DOHS Sanitary Engineering Branch offices in Los Angeles at (213) 620-2980.]

You may note on the "Analyses Performed" chart that sample(s) from your well(s) were analyzed for perchlorate ion (ClO_4^-). This analyses was included in the SSP as part of EPA's source sampling program to identify potential sources of ground water contamination in the San Gabriel Valley. We are not reporting any results from the perchlorate analyses due to two serious problems that have been identified with the analytical procedure used. First, the laboratory reported contamination in five of the six field blanks (samples containing "clean" water that are submitted along with environmental samples without the knowledge of the laboratory personnel performing the analyses) that were submitted for analysis along with the well water samples. We have been unable to identify the source of this contamination. Second, when the laboratory provided EPA with a description of the analytical method, it was stated that the presence of nitrates at levels above one part per million (ppm) can cause a false positive to be reported (i.e., the analytical method will indicate perchlorate contamination when, in fact, no perchlorate ion is present in the sample). Due to the fact that contamination of ground water by nitrates has been reported in a large area of the San Gabriel Valley and that analysis for nitrates was not conducted along with the perchlorate analyses, the validity of any positive results from the perchlorate analyses is questioned. Based on a review of the two problems identified, EPA has determined that the results of the perchlorate analyses cannot be considered valid.

EPA is presently trying to identify a modification to the method used during the SSP or a new analytical method for perchlorate analysis. If our search for a reliable method of analysis for perchlorate ion is successful, EPA will request permission to resample your well(s) in the future.

Please be advised that the results being provided to you at this time will be summarized in EPA's Supplemental Sampling Program Report, which will be released to the public in approximately 3-5 weeks. In your April 16, 1985 letter, you requested an opportunity to review any proposed remarks concerning your well prior to publication. Unfortunately, I am unable to comply with your request since as a matter of policy, EPA does not make internal drafts of EPA reports available to individual members of the public prior to a general release of the document for public comment. However, EPA will provide you with a copy of the draft SSP Report when it is made available to the public. You are encouraged to submit to EPA any comments you may have concerning the SSP report at that time.

If you have any questions concerning the results of these analyses, or of EPA's sampling program in the San Gabriel Valley, please contact me at (415) 974-7520. Thank you for your cooperation during EPA's sampling program.

Sincerely yours,

Neil L. Ziemba
San Gabriel Valley Project Manager

Enclosures

ANALYSES PERFORMED

X: indicates which analyses were performed.
XX: indicates duplicate analyses.

Transit Mix Concrete Co. / Well:	date sampled	volatiles*	semivolatiles*	freon-113	xylidene	thiourea	selenium hydrazine perchlorate	pesticides*
2 (1900038)	4/16/85	X	X	X	X	X	X	

*If this analysis was performed for any of the sample(s) from your well(s), the attached sheets include a list of the chemicals in this category.

ANALYTICAL RESULTS Units: all units are ug/L (ppb).

Transit Mix Concrete Co. / Well:	trichloroethene	tetrachloroethene	1,1,1-trichloroethane	1,1-dichloroethene	di-N-butylphthalate	trans-1,2-dichloroethene	carbon tetrachloride	chloroform	
2(1900038)	600	480	20	6.8	10	5	5	5	

CALIFORNIA DOHS ACTION LEVELS AND
EPA PROPOSED MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS (MCL)
FOR CONTAMINANTS FREQUENTLY DETECTED
IN SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GROUND WATER

Contaminant	DOHS Action Level (ppb)[1]	EPA Proposed MCL (ppb)[1]
Trichloroethene[2]	5	5
Tetrachloroethene[3]	4	none
Carbon Tetrachloride[4]	5	5
1,1-Dichloroethene[5]	0.2	7
1,2-Dichloroethane[6]	1	5
1,1,1-Trichloroethane[7]	200	200

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[1] parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
[2] also known as trichloroethylene or TCE
[3] also known as tetrachloroethylene, perchloroethylene, or PCE
[4] also known as CTC
[5] also known as 1,1-dichloroethylene, or 1,1-DCE
[6] also known as 1,2-DCA
[7] also known as 1,1,1-TCA

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